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BOOK DEPARTMENT

THE BUSINESS MAN'S LIBRARY

BANKING INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE

KEMMERER, EDWIN W. *Postal Savings: an Historical and Critical Study of the Postal Savings Bank System of the United States.* Pp. viii, 176. Price, \$1.25. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1917.

This book is timely for all who are interested in the thrift campaign. The subject matter is only indirectly related to Liberty Loan Bonds and War Savings Certificates, but facts of importance to any one concerned in the development of the thrift habit are set forth; for example, the facts underlying the establishment of the postal savings system, the classes of a community from whom these deposits—the result of saving—come, the circumstances affecting the increase or decrease of deposits, and the sections of the country in which the postal savings habit is most strongly entrenched. From the angle of thrift, this work is important principally for its clear presentation of suggestive facts, rather than for any deliberate conclusions predicated upon the facts.

There are pages of significance to the banker also. The book is undoubtedly one of the most lucid expositions of the practical operations of our postal savings system that has been published. Some of the tables might be of a more recent date in order to be truly representative of the condition and development of the system during the war period, although lack of such figures is probably to be attributed to inadequate statistical sources.

The author has attempted to give a balanced view of the postal savings system. As a consequence, he gives both viewpoints on any matter that has evoked discussion prior either to its incorporation or rejection as a part of the postal savings system. In style the work is expository and narrative, and is not an exhaustive critical analysis. The appendices include the original act and the subsequent amendments thereto of the United States and the Philippines systems.

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INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT

LEFFINGWELL, W. H. *Scientific Office Management.* Pp. 253. Price, \$10.00. Chicago: A. W. Shaw Company, 1917.

Books on scientific management fall into two classes, one descriptive, the other philosophic. The first deals with practices, the second with principles. The number of books describing practices is legion; for example, a published bibliography is thirty-eight pages long, each page crowded with titles. There is little reason, therefore, for adding to works in this category, yet Leffingwell has done just that thing, and deserves commendation for it. The paradox is explicable when it is stated that the host of books deals with scientific management in fac-